



Press Release

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U.S. Library Digitizes and Posts Online Its Unique Collection of Early Peruvian Books and Manuscripts

LIMA, JUNE 13, 2012 – Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, this month made available to the public via a new website its large and unique collection of early Peruvian books and manuscripts -- many of them from the very first printing presses in South America (Lima, 1581), long before the first press arrived in North America (1638). The physical collection, housed at the University's John Carter Brown Library, is one of the largest in the world of books, pamphlets, broadsides and maps published in Peru from the 16th to the early 19th century. The John Carter Brown collection thus includes an unparalleled collection of Peruvian imprints – a number of them being the only known copies -- from the colonial, independence and early national periods. The materials range from church and governmental matters to literature and indigenous language studies.

The Library's new online Peru Collection can be accessed, for free, by anyone with an Internet connection. The purpose of the digital collection of Peruvian works is to share knowledge and to showcase the collection to a worldwide audience.

The online Peru Collection – currently totaling 1,072 items -- was launched on June 8, 2012, at a ceremony at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, RI. Participating via webcast from Lima was U.S. Ambassador to Peru Rose M. Likins who praised the university's effort to share the Peruvian works in their collection saying it represents, "The best of American academic life and best tradition of sharing knowledge."

Following Ambassador Likin's address, a panel of experts from Peruvian and U.S. institutions reviewed the collection and discussed the scholarly use of the materials locally and remotely. Panelists included Carlos Gálvez-Peña, Chair of the History Department from the College of William and Mary; Teodoro Hampe-Martínez, Professor of History at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos; Jeremy Ravi Mumford, Department of History at Brown University, and Jose de la Puente-Brunke, Department of History from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

A bilingual English-Spanish introduction to the Collection, as well as a sampling of books from the John Carter Brown Library's Peru Collection are showcased online as "Sources of Peru", at: http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/John_Carter_Brown_Library/perusource/peru/index.php. The John Carter Brown Library's entire Peru Collection can now be found at: <http://archive.org/details/jcbperu>

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